PUDUKKOTTAI STATE

NATIONAL WAR FRONT BUREAU

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The Editor will gratefully receive contributions, in English or Tamil, of articles on matters of *National War Front interest*, and publish them, if suitable, as signed articles, in the Bulletin. The articles should be short and reach the Editor a week in advance.

'POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION'

—*See Page 21.*

LECTURE CCXXIII.

ROOSEVELT RE-ELECTED PRESIDENT OF THE U. S. A. FOR THE FOURTH TERM.

The welcome news has come of the re-election of Roosevelt as President of the United States for a fourth term. It is a unique honour, as none of his predecessors has held this high office for more than two terms.

Not many hours after the polling began the results of the voting became obvious and Dewey, his rival broadcast his congratulations, conceding Roosevelt's success.

Simultaneously with this success, Roosevelt's Democratic party has secured a better position both in the House of Representatives and the Senate.

Not only the Americans of all shades of political opinion but the members of the United Nations as well welcome the result, because his re-election assures the continuity of the American policy in regard to the war. Roosevelt is the symbol, not only politically, of democratic principles, but also, militarily, of the American determination to win the war. His success sets the seal of his country's approval on the method of the prosecution of the war till now, and is a guarantee that the same policy will be pursued in future.

To Roosevelt, personally, the Allies owe much for changing the American nation's attitude from isolation to belligerency, from Cash-and-Carry to Lease-Lend, for the

stepping up of American war production, so as to overwhelm all the Axis Powers put together, for mobilising those vast American forces on land, at sea and in air that have now become irresistible.

To Churchill and Britain, it is a promise of the continuance of friendship between the English speaking lands, which is more than a mere political alliance formed for the moment for military purposes.

To the world, it is the hope vested in the Atlantic Charter, the Four Freedoms and those security measures which have been formulated at Dumbarton Oaks for a continuation of peace after the present war.

We close with Dewey's wish that Divine Providence will be his guide.

Here are two extracts—one from his last election broadcast, and the other from his Proclamation prepared for America's Thanksgiving Day (Nov. 23). They reveal his vision and devotion.

(1) "Twice in 25 years our people have had to put on a brave smiling front as they suffered anxiety and agony of war. No one wants to endure the suffering again.

When we think of the speed and long distance possibilities of air travel to the remotest corners of the earth, we must consider the devastation wrought on the people of England by the new long-range bombs. Another war would be bound to bring even more devilish and more powerful destruction to wipe out civilian populations. No coastal defences, however strong, could prevent these silent missiles of death, fired perhaps from planes or ships at sea, from crashing deep within the United States. This time we must be certain that peace-loving nations of the world band together in determination to outlaw and prevent war. I do not want to talk to you to-night of partisan politics. The political battle is over. Our task now is to face the future with a militant and united people—united here at home as well as on the battle fronts. Our boys are counting on us to show the rest of the world that our kind of Government is the best in the world. They are winning the victory for all of us. It is for us to make certain that we win for them—living and dead—lasting peace."

(2) "In this year of liberation which has seen so many millions freed from tyrannical rule, it is fitting that we give thanks with special fervor to our Heavenly Father for mercies we have received individually and as a nation, and for blessings He has restored, through victories of our arms and those of our Allies, to His children in other lands.

For the preservation of our way of life from threat of destruction; for the unity of spirit which has kept our nation strong; for our abiding faith in freedom; and for the promise of enduring peace, we should lift up our hearts in thanksgiving.

For a harvest that has sustained us and, in its fullness, brought succour to other people; for the bounty of our soil, which has produced sinews of war for the protection of our liberties; and for the multitude of private blessings known only in our hearts, we should give united thanks to God."

WEEKLY WAR SUMMARY.

(A)—LEADING EVENTS.

31—10—44 (Tuesday).	American Forces link up on *LEYTE* in the Philippines.
	British troops reach *SALONIKA* in Greece.
1—11—44 (Wednesday).	British Commandos and Marines land on *WALCHEREN.*
2—11—44 (Thursday).	American 1st Army launches a new thrust into *GERMANY* beyond *AACHEN.*
	Russians reach the outskirt of *BUDAPEST* in Hungary.
3—11—44 (Friday).	British liberate *FLUSHING* and *ZEEBRUGGE.*
4—11—44 (Saturday).	British 2nd Army launches new attack south of the *MAAS* (Holland).
	Allies liberate whole of *GREECE.*
5—11—44 (Sunday).	Super-Fortresses smash *SINGAPORE* dockyards in daylight for the first time since the Japanese occupation.
6—11—44 (Monday).	Lord Moyne, British Minister in Middle East was assassinated in *CAIRO.*
7—11—44 (Tuesday).	British capture *KENNEDY* Peak in Burma.
8—11—44 (Wednesday).	Mr. Roosevelt is re-elected President of the United States for a fourth term.

(B) NEWS IN BRIEF.

The Western Front.—Three important successes belong to the week :—

(1) The completion of the liberation of BELGIUM, (2) the liquidation of the German pocket in the Scheldt estuary and (3) the clearance of the enemy from the north side of the island of WALCHEREN.

(1) Walcheren and Scheldt Estuary.—Following the landing at West KAPELLE on WALCHEREN Island the Allies have liberated FLUSHING, ZEEBRUGGE, KNOCKE, ARNEMUIDEN, DOMBERG, NIEUWLAND, VEER, on the island and MIDDLEBURG, the capital of the island. According to the German News Agency, the Allies have crossed from WALCHEREN to SCHOUWEN, the next island on the way to ANTWERP.

(2) The Maas River Area.—The Allies now control the whole of the south bank of the River Maas. Here WAGENBERG, STEENBERGEN, GEERTRUIDENBERG, HEUSTEN and WILLEMSTED have been taken.

(3) **In the Aachen Sector**, the Allies have captured GERMETER and VOSSENACK. The Germans have retaken Schmidt. The German Army has moved up and concentrated its artillery on the Hurtgen front.

(4) **In the Vosges**, ABAUCOURT, LETRICOURT, BACCARAT, GELEECOURT and DENAUVRE have been captured.

Russia.—In HUNGARY, the Red Army has liberated SZOLNSK, GEGLED and ABONY and has broken into BUDAPEST.

Yugoslavs have freed PEREST in the Bay of Kotor. Battles are raging in the Vardar valley.

Italy.—After crossing the Renco River, the 8th Army has cleared MELDOLA on the way to FORLI. The 5th Army has taken CASETTA on the way to BOLOGNA. The Poles have liberated PREDAPPIO (Mussolini's birth place), MARSIGNANO, MONTE TESA, MONTE MAGGIORE and SAN MARTINO INAVELLA.

Philippines.—The American Army is locked with the Japanese in a critical fight in the Ormoc Valley on LEYTE.

In a raid on Nov. 4 and 5, on MANILA and S. LUZON, six Japanese ships were sunk, 24 ships were damaged and 440 aircraft were destroyed.

Burma.—Continuing their advance, the Allies have captured MAWLU, about 28 miles from INDAW and Kennedy Peak in the Chin Hills, and have opened an attack on FORT WHITE, the next enemy base in the Chindwin valley.

SINGAPORE was bombed for the first time by a substantial force of Super-Fortresses.

China.—The Chinese have retaken LUNGLING—25 miles W. of the Salween, the last link in the Allied drive to reopen the land route to CHINA.

The Japanese have entered KWEILIN, the capital of the KWANGSI Province.

ALLIED AIR-RAIDS.

29—10—44. (Sunday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

- Gun batteries around OOST SOUBERG (Holland).
- Gun positions and troops around KAPELLE (France).
- Railways and bridges in the RHINELAND.
- Enemys, communication system in HOLLAND.
- COLOGNE (Germany).
- Road and rail-traffic in AUSTRIA.
- Gun positions, motor and rail transport and bridges in battle areas in ITALY.
- Shipping in the ADRIATIC.
- Military traffic in ALBANIA.
- Air combats all over the Eastern Front (37 enemy planes shot down).

NIGHT:—

- Trains in GERMANY.
- BERLIN (Germany).

FAR EAST.

- The barrack area near HANOI (Indo-China).
- Jap positions on the MARSHALL Islands.

BURMA.

- Jap troops near FALAM and HAKA.
- The airfields at HEHO and MEIKTILA.

30—10—44. (Monday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY:—

- Industrial and communication targets in HAMM and MUNSTER.
- Oil-refineries at HAMBURG.
- A synthetical plant at WESSELING.
- Enemy defe… WA…CHEREN Island.
- Communications in HOLLAND.
- Railway-yards at KERP…N.
- Road, river and rail-traffic in the rear of the battle area in ITALY.
- Bridges, roads and railways in the BALKANS.
- Air-combats all along the Eastern Front (50 enemy planes shot down).

NIGHT:—

- Industrial targets in COLOGNE (Germany).

FAR EAST.

- Jap positions on the MARSHALLS.
- PARAMUSHIRO (Kuriles).
- HANOI (Indo-China).

BURMA.

- Japanese coastal base of TAUNGUP.

31—10—44 (Tuesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

The synthetic oil-plant at BOTTROP.
Gun emplacements and ammunition dumps on the Island of WALCHEREN.
The oil-plant at WESSELING.
Targets in the PO Valley.
Communications in Northern ITALY.
Air-combats all along the Eastern Front (20 enemy planes shot down).

NIGHT :—

Industrial targets at COLOGNE.
The naval base at HAMBURG.
Airfields in GERMANY.
Defences at FLUSHING.

FAR EAST.

Enemy installations and shipping at ORMOC (Philippines).
Targets in CEBU Island.

BURMA.

A supply base in the CHINDWIN region.
Air fields in Central BURMA.

1—11—44 (Wednesday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

Objectives in the RUHR (Germany).
A dam near DIEUZE (in the Nancy area).
Communication targets in the PO Valley and in YUGOSLAVIA.
Shipping in the North ADRIATIC and off the DALMATIAN coast.
Rail-yards at LATISANA in North ITALY.
Air combats all along the Eastern Front.
ODNABRUCK (Germany).
The synthetic oil-plants at HAMBURG.

FAR EAST.

The airfield on BACOLOD (Negros).
Installations at DIEMONTE, MINDANAO (Philippines.)
Targets on CELEBES, AMBOINA, TIMOR, NEW GUINEA and the BISMARCK–SOLOMONS sector.

BURMA.

Airfields at NAMSANG, METKTILA and SHWEBO.
Enemy positions in FORT WHITE.
Lines of communication, enemy positions and supply base in the CHINDWIN region.
A railway bridge at DARA (Siam).

2—11—44 (Thursday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

Air combats over EUROPE.
(208 German planes shot down; 69 Allied planes missing).
Industrial targets at DUSSELDORF.
Marshalling yards and other targets in Western GERMANY.
Synthetic oil-plants in the RUHR.
Transportation targets in HOLLAND.
The railway centre of OBERHAUSEN (Germany).
Communications, power facilities and rail transport in the RHINELAND.
Road and rail communications in N. ALBANIA.
Shipping in the ADRIATIC.
Air combats and grounded aircraft all along the Eastern Front.

NIGHT:—

Objectives in AUSTRIA.
Objectives in Western GERMANY including DUSSELDORF.

FAR EAST.

Jap vessel off S. PALAU.
Airfields on SAIPAN and TINIAN (Marianas).

BURMA.

Marshalling yards at RANGOON.
Bridges on the LASHIO–BHAMO road and between NABA and MAWLU.

3—11—44. (Friday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

A factory south of BONN.
An airfield to the east of TRIER.
An oil-plant at HAMBURG.
Bridges in the MOSELLE Valley.
Industrial targets in South Germany and AUSTRIA.
Communications in the PO Valley (Italy) in YUGOSLAVIA and ALBANIA.
An air-field near ZAGREB.
Air combats all along the Eastern Front.

NIGHT:—

Air-fields in Western GERMANY.
Laying mines in enemy waters.

FAR EAST.

Jap positions in the ORMOC Valley (Philippines).

BURMA.

Enemy aircraft and grounded installations and concentrations near the BURMA Road.
Supporting ground operations in the CHINDWIN region.
Railway workshops at BANGKOK.
Airfields and communications in South BURMA.

4—11—44. (Saturday).

GERMANY and the battle areas in EUROPE.

DAY :—

The synthetic oil-plants, oil-refineries and marshalling yards at HAMBURG, HANOVER and SAARBRUCKEN.
A submarine factory at UTRECHT.
The Industrial towns of BOCHUM and SOLINGEN.
Aircraft factories at REGENSBURG, MUNICH and AUGSBURG.
Rolling stock in the areas of ZAGREB and MARIBOR (Yugoslavia).
Rail-cars in N. ITALY.
Rail-bridges in the BRENNER PASS and PO Valley.
Shipping in the ADRIATIC.
Air combats all along the Eastern Front.

NIGHT :—

Industrial targets at BOCHUM and HANOVER.

FAR EAST.

Jap shipping off BONIN.
Jap strong points in the ORMOC Valley area in LEYTE (Philippines).

BURMA.

Railway workshops at INSEIN (near Rangoon).
Dumps at TAUNGUP.
Oil-installations at CHAUK.
Rolling stock on the HEKO and KYAUK PADAUNG Railway line.
Road and river traffic in the CHINDWIN region.
Airfields and rolling stock in Central BURMA.

ENEMY AIR-RAIDS.

30—10—44 (Monday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

31—10—44. (Tuesday).

BRITAIN.

Places in South ENGLAND including the LONDON area.

RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

1—11—44. (Wednesday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

American positions on LEYTE (Philippines).

2—11—44. (Thursday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

3—11—44. (Friday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

4—11—44. (Saturday).

BRITAIN, RUSSIA and FAR EAST.

No enemy air activity.

5—11—44. (Sunday).

BRITAIN.

No information.

RUSSIA.

No enemy air activity.

FAR EAST.

American positions on LEYTE (Philippines).

SIDE LIGHTS.

POLITICS AND WAR. This Bulletin has consistently eschewed politics, except when it has interfered with the war effort and sought to deflect its course. True to this policy we turn our gaze this week on the twin spectacle of the U. S. A., and BRITAIN, one in the throes of a Presidential Election, we write on November 7, and the other pursuing the even tenour of life of a Coalition Government having decided not to have a General Election for yet another year-for seven or eight months at least, till GERMANY is defeated. And this decision BRITAIN has reached though she has had no General Election for nearly ten years, and has led the World in Parliamentary institutions, while AMERICA with one Presidential Election already within the period of the war is having another. BRITAIN reached her decision by the common consent of all Parties—Conservative, Labour and Liberal, and without a division, when the British Premier moved the second reading of the Bill to prolong the life of the present Parliament. The Parliament of GREAT BRITAIN though ten years old is neither aged nor servile for this reason. On the other hand, as Mr. Greenwood, Deputy Leader of the Labour Party reminded the House, British Parties have lost none of their keenness, and Party Leaders are as restive as ever to fight out their differences in battles royal.

The wisdom of the step that the Mother of Parliaments has unanimously taken, lies on the surface. In a word, it is unwise to change horses in mid-stream, to seek the excitement of a General Election when the ship of state is tossing on stormy seas. It is wrong to fancy that the war is virtually over because Western EUROPE and the BALKAN STATES have been virtually liberated, and the enemy has been expelled from RUSSIA and dislodged from part of ITALY. Though much has been accomplished, much still remains. Though the enemy has been beaten, he has not yet been broken. Nazism is tough, as the world has never known before. There is no hope of a political rising in GERMANY, so tight is the Nazi grip on civilian life. The Nazi Soldier is also tough, fighting dour battles even when he is isolated and has no hope. Meanwhile, Winter has slowed down progress; and Spring must follow and summer also, before the Allies can reach a decision in EUROPE. It therefore stands to reason that the Coalition Government which has, these years,

transformed the face of the war from near defeat to near victory, ought not to be sent home before its task is done.

We particularly emphasise certain other reasons that Mr. Churchill placed before the House—arguments which curiously enough are supported by simultaneous happenings on the other side of the Atlantic. Firstly, that an election, in the midst of the war, is unfair to the men at the front, who cannot have the same facilities to vote as the civilians at home have—secondly, that with the war still in progress, the only big issue before the country is the war, on which unanimity of opinion must prevail; thirdly, that mutual recriminations of the leaders of different parties, inevitable in an election, will expose war measures to criticism and so weaken the war effort.

Politics are necessary, democracy is no doubt vital, and elections must be held, but they have their time and day; they have no place in a national emergency, with a formidable foe still to wrestle with. Politics can wait ,but the enemy will not.

THE AMERICAN SCENE, presents a spectacle in contrast. As we write, a new President is being elected, a second time since the war broke out, with all the excitement that it means. But it is a remarkable testimony to the single-mindedness of the U. S. A., in regard to the war that both the candidates have vied with each other in declaring their eagerness to continue to wage the war with undiminished intensity till the enemies surrender unconditionally. The only difference between the old and the new aspirants to the Presidential Chair is in regard to the pace of the war. The new aspirant, with the inexperience to be expected in one out of office, argues for an acceleration of pace, while President Roosevelt who has been at the helm for 5 war-years knows that the pace can be no quicker. On November 3. he said :—

"In winning this war, there is just one sure way to guarantee the minimum of casualties, by seeing to it that in every action we have overwhelming material superiority. Within 10 weeks, after the first landings in France last June, the Allies landed on NORMANDY beaches nearly 200,000 men, over 2,000,000 tons of supplies and nearly 500,000 vehicles"

These are fabulous figures, yet true. Such a large army and these supplies have to be got ready and to be transported. Time is a necessary factor. It is not delay; it is not slowness, but time necessary for preparation.

It is also good to remember, as President Roosevelt has pointed out, that operations conducted at great distances from AMERICA, that is in EUROPE and ASIA, must be inevitably slow, hazardous and subject to enemy interruptions. There are also the obstacles imposed by terrain and weather. War is a tough, hard and bloody business. Yet Mr. Dewey, the rival candidate for the U. S. Presidential Chair—such is the nature of an election, has chosen to blame President Roosevelt, for tardiness.

[Since the above was written the Presidential Election has taken place, and Roosevelt has been elected President. See front page.—*Editor.*]

THE HOME-GUARD AND THE VOLKSSTURM present another contrast this week for study. The British Home-Guard—the embodiment of BRITAIN's civilian will to fight for the home and the World organised in the dark days of 1940 has been ordered to stand down with victory now in sight.

In contrast, and by a strange coincidence, GERMANY is just now forming her Volkssturm on the eve of her final overthrow in imitation of the British Home-Guard—as usual, ersatz in quality. BRITAIN's Home-Guard was raised to relieve the strain on the men at the front, while GERMANY forms her Volkssturm to fill up the gaps on her depleted front, with civilians untrained and unequipped. The Nazis are also afraid, as an article in the *Das Reich* shows, that punishment will overtake the men who compose the Volkssturm, on the day of defeat. The Hague Convention does not recognise such organisations as fighting forces; they are irregulars.

Let the Nazis also beware that though the Home-Guard stands down now it is still in being. Though parades and drill are no longer compulsory, they will continue on a voluntary basis. They will spring into action and confound the enemy, should the occasion arise.

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'NEUTRALS' There is no surer indication of the changed fortunes of the Nazis than the change that has come upon countries which were pro-Axis all these years and now suddenly protest their 'neutrality' far too much. SWEDEN has suddenly discovered that the presence of the Nazis in NORWAY and DENMARK endangers her safety, and has reminded the Allies of her earlier promise not to shelter the war criminals. SPAIN, disowning Nazi affinities, applies for a seat at the Peace table. SWITZERLAND, that in violation of her age-old democratic traditions, has been pro-Nazi, now applies to RUSSIA for the establishment of diplomatic relations. Naturally, in her usual blunt way RUSSIA has refused to oblige.

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MARSHAL STALIN'S ADDRESS, delivered on Nov. 6th during the Russian celebration of the 27th anniversary of the October Revolution is remarkable for its insight and realism. You do not kill a wolf, said Stalin, because it is grey but because it eats sheep. It is not an accident that not only the enslaved people of FRANCE, YUGOSLAVIA, POLAND, CZECHOSLOVAKIA, GREECE, BELGIUM, NORWAY and HOLLAND, but also GERMANY's late vassal states, ITALY, RUMANIA, BULGARIA and FINLAND have joined the Allies and are waging war against GERMANY. The cause of this wonderful transformation is the Axis arrogance based on the assumption of racial superiority. If the Axis powers won their initial victories and overran RUSSIA, FRANCE, the PHILIPPINES and BURMA, it was not due to any inherent superiority of the German or the Jap, but to the years of war preparation by the Axis Powers and the absence of any such preparation by the peace-loving nations.

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TEHERAN. One or two other points which Stalin made out require mention. He paid a tribute to the plan of a Second Front, perfected at TEHERAN, which, as subsequent events have proved, has succeeded so remarkably. To quote Stalin :—

"There can be no doubt that but for the launching of the Second Front in Europe, which engaged up to 75 German Divisions, our Armies would not have been able to overcome German resistance in such a short time and expel them from the Soviet Union.

But it is equally beyond doubt that without the powerful operations of the Red Army this summer, the forces of our Allies would have been unable to deal with the German Forces as they did, and liberate France and Belgium".

The Teheran conference, Stalin admits, has shown also the strategy to be followed quickly to finish the war. It is never to relax the grip that has been gained, but to hold the enemy as in a vice. This is the key to victory. For this the co-operation of RUSSIA, BRITAIN and the U. S. A. will be strengthened. For this the British Premier has been moving from QUEBEC to MOSCOW.

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DUMBARTON OAKS. Stalin's speech is also timely for the warning that it contains, that GERMANY is preparing for the next war, and that the only preventive, besides disarmament is an armed alliance of the Three Great Powers. This is also the finding of the Security Conference at DUMBARTON OAKS.

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HISTORIC ACT. It is the accomplishment of 'an Historic Act' added Stalin to win the war and he added, of this there is 'not the slightest doubt.'

"The Red Army is on its final Mission to achieve, jointly with the armies of our Allies, the complete rout of German-Fascist Forces, to finish off the Fascist beast in its own lair, and to hoist the banner of victory over Berlin. That problem will be solved at a not distant date."

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POINTERS are not wanting of an early success. Of these the following events have been reported during the week:—

(1) President Benes and his Government expect to return to CZECHOSLOVAKIA in a few weeks.

(2) Black-out restrictions have been lifted in TURKEY.

(3) Hitler has begun to build another wall—the Frisian Wall.

(4) Himmler has started another 'purge', this time, of the industrial magnates. Five of them charged with sabotage of war-work are to be tried by the Peoples' Court. But their only offence is their inability to produce more than they do, because most of their workmen have been taken into the Volkssturm and have no energy left to overwork after the daily drill.

(5) GERMANY, being short of steel, manufactures poison-gas and poison-powder in 70 factories, employing 500,000 men in order to resist the invaders when they enter GERMANY.

(6) With the same object in view, GERMANY has formed 'Deformity Battalions' the 'Stomach Ulcers', 'the Wooden Legs', 'the Deafs'. 'the Criminals and the Miscreants'.

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ON THE WESTERN FRONT, the Battle for S. W. HOLLAND continues. WALCHEREN Island has been completely liberated. The way to ANTWERP has been virtually cleared. The importance of ANTWERP is being admitted by the enemy themselves. 'The defence of the approaches to Antwerp', says Genl. Von Zangen, 'represents a task which is decisive for the further conduct of the war. If they

overrun the Scheldt fortifications, the English will be in a position to land great masses of material, with which they might deliver a death blow at the N. German plateau and Berlin '.

In the present British operations in this theatre, the aim is not only to use the important port of ANTWERP, but to have the use also of the Belgian roads and railways for transporting supplies to the front. The French railway system has broken down, what with the Allies' bombings before the liberation, the Maquis' operations during the liberation and the enemy's devastations during his evacuation. The rapid liberation of BELGIUM however has left the Belgian communications intact. The present British operations are therefore to clear the BREDA-TILBURG-s'HERTOGNENBOSCH triangle which is not only covered with a network of these railways and roads, but also links S-W. HOLLAND with GERMANY.

Thus, the Nijmegen salient is also being developed once again, to squeeze the Germans out of S-W. HOLLAND, and to enter the Ruhr and the Saar from there.

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ON THE EASTERN FRONT the Red Army has broken into BUDAPEST. The battle for BUDAPEST, like the Battle for ANTWERP, is a battle for communications. BUDAPEST stands at the head of railways and roads leading to VIENNA, and the distance to the Reich itself will shrink from 'miles to furlongs' once BUDAPEST is in Russian hands.

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GREECE. The welcome news has come that the whole of GREECE has been liberated.

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WAR IN ITALY. To those that think that the Italian operations are of minor importance, Genl. Alexander's review of Nov. 2 supplies a fitting answer. In 6 months' fighting, which brought the Allies from CASSINO to ROME, the equivalent of 15 German Divisions were destroyed. Since crossing into ITALY, the Allies have advanced 500 miles, and liberated 51,000 square miles of Italian territory, at the rate of 1¼ miles a day.

The chief aim, which was to open a Second Front elsewhere and secure victory there by holding back large enemy forces in ITALY, has been achieved. The landings in NORMANDY began with the liberation of ROME. The Allies, by holding large German armies at bay in ITALY, weakened the German defence in FRANCE.

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POST-WAR PLANS. The observations made by Sir Ardeshir Dalal on Oct. 27 at BOMBAY mean that the plans for Post-war Reconstruction have emerged from general planning to definite schemes. A considerable number of students will be sent to GREAT BRITAIN and AMERICA for training. The Provinces, the States and the Government of INDIA will take joint action. There will be a common hydro-electric project as in the U. S. A. Rs. 1,000 crores will be available for the first 5-year Plan from the Treasury, together with an equal amount from private investments. Sir Ardeshir Dalal added, "the real bottle-neck will not be finance but the availability of capital goods and of trained personnel, and the ability on the part of the country to expend the money in the most effective manner".

WAR LEGISLATION IN PUDUKKOTTAI. The Pudukkottai Government have prohibited the export of milk and wool from the State without permit, and have passed orders to control the prices of imported paper.

DEFENCES OF EAST PRUSSIA.

WHAT GERMANY THOUGHT IN 1939.

(The following article was written in 1939 by Dittmar now Broadcasting Lieutenant General (then Colonel) in charge of engineers in East Prussia. It is reproduced by the *News Chronicle* without permission from the *Die Wehrmacht* of May 24, 1939).

Recent political events (the dispute with Poland over Danzig and the Corridor) have shifted public interest to the military conditions on Germany's eastern frontier. Purely military reasons demand that East Prussia should be made an unassailable bulwark.

Geographical conditions give East Prussia a natural power of defence and its lakes and forests make invasion difficult. Our plan has been to increase this natural defence by a system of modern defences. It is obvious that Koenigsberg, the capital, will play a particular part in the system of defence. Koenigsberg, with its sea port, Pillau, is the gate to the province. In 1932, work was begun to extend the fortress of Koenigsberg into a fortified area whose flanks rest in the west and the east on the inlets of the Baltic Sea—Frische and Kurische Haff.

Now the west, south and east fronts of Koenigsberg have become known as the "Heilsberg position". The name of the town Heilsberg reminds us of the time under the Versailles Treaty which allowed us to build defences only in the area of Heilsberg. These fortified positions extend now over 125 miles. The large forests are a natural camouflage.

These positions can also be used as areas of concentration for attacks. The broken country in the western part of the province, with innumerable screens provided by the small and large forests, gives ideal cover for troop concentrations. The forests are buttressed by forts which may be called advanced forts in the fortified area of Koenigsberg.

The most important and strongest advanced fort is the old, and now extended, fortress of Loetzen. Around Loetzen are an amazing number of small and large lakes. This maze of lakes, with few and very narrow land-bridges, would divide any enemy forces which might try to penetrate East Prussia from the east and south. This was demonstrated in 1914. In 1914 this division of enemy forces by natural obstacles made possible German operations on the inner line. In 1914 Loetzen failed, however, in its task to keep these narrow land-bridges open for German forces.

To-day things have changed. Fortifications have been constructed in sufficient depth in front of the narrow land-bridges. If we take into account the fact that the whole area in front of these fortifications has been planted with all kinds of obstacles, it is clear that all movements of the enemy will be made extremely difficult, and rapid movements are almost impossible on East Prussian soil.

By and large "the fortress of East Prussia" is to-day a reality on which the inhabitants of East Prussia may rely, and which any possible enemy must take into account in his deliberations. East Prussia is an outpost, but not the last position of German life and the German will to live.

RUSSIAN ADVANCE IN THE BALKANS.

REACTIONS IN TURKEY.

(*By Leonard Kirschen*).

It is now several weeks since the Russians, after the Rumanians finally gave in, broke into the German defences in the Balkans and began spreading out fanwise. This is indeed a new experiment, which will affect the whole of south-eastern Europe for centuries to come. How things are likely to develop in the future always depends on the first impressions and on the first actions.

It must be remembered that except for Rumania, where Russian troops came as Allies during the second half of World War I, most of the Balkans had not seen Russian troops since 1877—1878. Several other parts of South-east Europe, like Transylvania, and, of course we must not forget Yugoslavia, had never seen a Russian army before. Turkey had never really known Russian occupation, nor had she fought battles against Russia on her own soil, except on her extreme western and eastern frontiers.

So on the whole, this Russian advance, and the ensuing occupation is rather a novelty. Journalists, publicists and historians have always presented the Russian army as a huge steam-roller devoid of soul, powerful and ruthless, sweeping and squashing everything in and out of the way of its cumbersome progress. Yet the Russian army has always had a soul.

Well, this Russian Army is now in the Balkans. It has occupied Rumania and Bulgaria, is about to liberate Czechoslovakia, has entered Yugoslavia, and will probably continue its triumphant march towards Budapest and Vienna.

German propaganda has tried to picture it as a cruel army, bringing with it destruction, poverty and anarchy. The German mind could not conjure up another picture. The Germans who considered themselves the Herrenvolk, and at that the most civilised nation in the two hemispheres, behaved in exactly the way they tried to paint a picture of the Russian Army.

RUSSIAN ARMY.

Now, let us be honest. The Russian army is not an army of kind missionaries or gentle angels. It is an army. It fights and suffers and has travelled a road of privations and sufferings, knowing that the families at home suffered too, and the families under German occupation suffered more, and perhaps paid the supreme price for being Russians. The love for the Fatherland is stronger in Russia than in perhaps any other Continental country, and never in its long history has Russia been mastered by another people.

These are the men who make up the Russian Army, now in the Balkans. Naturally they have not come to forgive, but they have suffered so much that the spirit of understanding for others is now wide awake in the most humble of all Russian troopers. Their sense of duty prevails. The Cossacks of the Don Bassin, sweeping back with the tidal wave that brought them from Stalingrad to the passes of the Carpathians, thundered through their own villages. Many a Cossack trooper with a heavy heart, though his eyes shone with the light of victory, rode through his destroyed village. He kissed his wife, and without dismounting, lifted his children on his saddle, and perhaps told them

hurriedly the tale of his and his comrades' triumphs, and then after only a short pause he galloped away to other triumphs—and perhaps to death.

These are the men who are now sweeping through the tortured Balkans, through the countryside which has suffered more hardships and privations than any other countryside in Europe. The Germans will have it that wherever the Russians go, anarchy follows behind them. The sort of picture Horace would have painted: *post equitem sedet atra cura.* But black worry follows the Germans in their retreat.

OCCUPATION OF RUMANIA.

How have Rumania and Bulgaria fared under Soviet military occupation? In Rumania the change came without convulsions. The Rumanians timed their stroke pretty well. The only signs of "barbarism" came from the Germans themselves, who bombed Bucharest savagely without interruption for four days. Indeed, in these four days more damage was done to Bucharest than had been done during four months by Allied day and night raiders.

Allied journalists, British and Americans, went to Bucharest on September 1. They have been working under normal conditions, before and after the entry of Soviet troops into Bucharest itself.

The conditions of the armistice terms which Rumania signed were comparatively easy, as armistices go, and nobody can be expected to lose a war, and an unjustified war at that, and get off lightly. Order reigns in Bucharest and all over the country.

The Rumanians rule themselves. They have their own military commanders who issue orders, their own Government and their own administrative organisations. They arrest their own war criminals, and indeed have shown enough goodwill to atone in small part for their past mistakes. And the interesting part is that the Russians are giving the Rumanians credit for what they are doing and treating them accordingly. How does this compare with what the Germans are trying to make us believe? Where is the Russian immixture in internal affairs of which the Germans had told the Rumanians? Where is the pillaging, and where is the anarchy?

BULGARIAN DEVELOPMENTS.

No better example can be had than a study of the developments in Bulgaria. After Kimon Georgieff's coup d'état, Sofia went wild. People in the town went around thinking that it was the right thing to wave a clenched fist in salute, and to wear something red. The Bulgarians had used the Fascist salute and worn Fascist colours with the same eagerness. Like spoilt children trying to overdo it, they were putting their souls into being 100 per cent Communists. They thought that Communism was a fashion to be adopted if circumstances dictated it. They thought that the Russians would be all the more pleased with this manifestation. But the Russians are a simple people and their judgment is sound. They can see through pretence and make-believe, and the best way of communicating with a Russian is to tell him the truth, brutal as it may be sometimes, and then you will have his heart.

So that after the first wild romp to liberty, which lasted for about a week, the Bulgarians sobered down, and are now turning their attention to the real masses of agricultural Bulgaria: the peasants. And as representative of the peasants, the Agrarian Party has most of the chances of taking the political lead in future Bulgarian political

developments. Have the Russians interfered with this? No, this all happened by a coincidence on the very day on which the Russian troops made their formal entry into Sofia.

Are the Russians encouraging disorder in the Balkans? Again, no. Before the Russians arrived in Sofia, Bulgarian partisans had sent two envoys to the Greek E. A. M. organisation, the Greek home communist movement, to reach an agreement on the subject of territories to be evacuated by the Bulgarians which belong to Greece. They reached an agreement which foresaw the immediate pulling out of the Bulgarian administration, and the taking over by the E. A. M. Now the E. A. M. is represented in the legal Papandreou Government, but it is not the sole exponent of Greece.

So, when representatives of the Greek Government arrived in Sofia in order to negotiate a real agreement, the Bulgarian Government signed another agreement which made the first provisional one invalid. Did the Russians interfere? No. And the *Tanin* special correspondent, who reports this to his Istanbul newspaper, says that by this agreement the Greeks and the Bulgarians have agreed that the latter should administer these territories until the Greek administration can take over.

REACTIONS IN TURKEY.

All this ought to give the Turks something to think about. For some time the man-in-the-street has been going about with a long face, and his worries were shared by members of the Turkish Government. Evidently many were thinking of what they have heard on the German radio, and it is funny how many people still believe the Germans despite their well proved and long record of lies. The Turks would like to know what would happen to them, if...... But there is no 'if' as the Turks have not been doing anything at all. That is what they are being reproached for: not doing anything at all.

What will Russia's attitude towards Turkey be? Well, that is rather hard to foretell, but I rather think that it will be one of complete indifference. Already Russian troops have reached the Turkish frontier, but not in strength, and only light forces control key passages at frontier points. In fact, I believe that there still is a sort of no-man's land between the Russian forces in Bulgaria and the Turkish frontier. The main direction of the Russian armies in Bulgaria was neither eastwards nor southwards but westwards towards Yugoslavia and Marshal Tito's forces. The only reason for Russian military penetration into Bulgaria as well as into Rumania had one object in view: the pursuit of the Nazis. And from their determination to do this nothing will shake the Russians.

In our modern era, with aviation and motorised troops, the Straits have lost all their value. The play of conflicting interests of a century ago has practically disappeared, and there is no reason why Turkey should not agree with Russia on matters of procedure concerning the Straits. Turkey remains the guardian of the Straits. To be guardian of the Straits means guardian for somebody. There were many for whom the Straits mattered in the past, and Turkey liked at moments to call herself the mandatary power of the signatories of the Montreaux Convention. But this Convention will disappear and something new will take its place, probably an instrument much simpler in conception and form and designed to guard the interests of a very few instead of very many. So Turkey will not have the fear of conflicting interests intersecting on Turkish soil.

GERMAN WITHDRAWAL FROM NORTH NORWAY.

RUSSIANS HARD ON NAZI HEELS.

(*From the Daily Herald*).

Remnants of four German divisions, which for three years had been fortifying the front across the barren tundras of Petsamo, are now trying to escape from northern Norway with the Russians hard behind them.

Steamers packed with German soldiers are running the gauntlet round the Varangar Peninsula between the rocky North Cape and the guns and bombs of Allied naval craft and Russian planes. Other Germans are slowly withdrawing along the only road skirting the northern coast of Norway.

More than 100 miles south-east of Kirkenes, parts of General Rendulic's army are trying to escape across the 120-mile snow-covered wilderness. The German rearguard has been keeping up a running fight to cover the retreat.

It is admitted in Berlin that all German troops north of Narvik will be withdrawn. Well-informed sources in Stockholm believe that the Germans will try to evacuate Norway down to a line just north of Trondjhem.

FAILURE TO CONVINCE HITLER

MUSSOLINI'S INTERVIEW WITH ADMIRAL MAUGERI.

(The *Daily Express* publishes the story of an interview between Mussolini and Admiral Franco Maugeri, Naval Intelligence Chief in the Badoglio Government, as related to its Rome reporter, Walter Lucas).

This interview took place on July 27, 1943, when Admiral Maugeri was entrusted with the task of taking Mussolini to Ponza, after his dismissal by the Italian King.

In the course of this interview, Mussolini commented bitterly upon Hitler's foolish obsession over Russia, and his own failure to convince Hitler that his ideas about Russia were as nonsensical as his ideas about the New Order.

Mussolini said: "The Germans had thought they could liquidate Russia in a few months. They were diabolically deceived, in a way that I myself would not have believed, if Hitler himself had not told me about it. A Russian plan for mobilisation was offered to the German Secret Service. It was a document complete in its smallest detail. The Germans thought it was too precise to be original, but they bought it nevertheless. The Russians arrested the agents whom they themselves had sent and shot them. When this was learned in Germany, Hitler felt sure that the plan was true. It was all faked. Where they mentioned 50 cavalry brigades it should have read 50 armoured brigades, and so on.

"After Hitler had got himself into the Russian mess, I kept arguing with him to come to some agreement with Stalin. In the most recent period, I urged him to do this at any cost, even if it meant the renouncing of everything he had conquered in the Ukraine.

"I tried to win him over by playing on his superstition. I reminded him that the first campaign had been a failure, then there was that terrible winter, and finally the

disaster of Stalingrad. But it was no good. I told him he had lost the initiative since June, 1942 and that any country that loses the initiative loses the war."

"Don't you think, Your Excellency", Maugeri asked, "that instead of war, a good neighbour policy with Great Britain in the Mediterranean on equal conditions would have been the best policy after the Abyssinian war ?

"I tried that, you know, but I was unsuccessful," Mussolini replied.

"Wouldn't it then", Maugeri continued, "have been better to bide our time for a few more years ?"

"There is no doubt of that", he said resignedly. "After I signed the 'Steel Pact' I tried to stop Hitler, and I wrote to him at length telling him that I could not be ready before 1942 at the earliest. I had to pacify Abyssinia, renew our artillery, build tanks and finish our battleships. I said in that letter that the Italo-German alliance was like an exceedingly young plant, and that more time was needed for a spiritual and sentimental change in the previous relations.

"When Hitler did declare war, I succeeded in gaining ten months with the non-belligerency formula, which saved the alliance and left every possibility open. But then I had to intervene; otherwise I would have renounced every claim that Italy had on France. I was sure the Germans would land in England, where I was told there were only 200 guns in all. Perhaps a landing would not have driven the British to surrender, as they might have removed their Government to Canada or Australia; but we would in any case have had an impregnable position.

"At that time, I even urged Hitler to seize Gibraltar. But he replied that he was not sure of Franco's position. I thought we should have simply told Franco that we were going to cross his territory with or without his permission. It would have been sufficient to make a link at La Linea, and then the British fleet would have been compelled to leave."

"The Germans, when they get into contact with France feel like provincials in front of aristocrats, and their vision becomes completely distorted."

Mussolini then turned with a look of earnest appeal to Maugeri, and after thumping the table said :

"We must disentangle ourselves from the Germans. We have a right and a duty to tell them that we have fought their war for three years, and that we have lost our mercantile marine and almost the whole of our fleet, and that we have so many of our towns destroyed. They cannot help us, and so there is nothing else to do.

"The Hungarians and Rumanians will follow our lead, as neither of them can stand it any longer, I doubt whether the Germans themselves can. Their internal situation is grave. The German people are becoming daily aware that what happened in the last war is occurring again. Large territorial conquests, military promenades over hundreds of miles of foreign countries and millions of tons of enemy shipping sunk—but victory comes no nearer. The people are sensing a historical repetition of the Napoleonic campaign in Russia.

"Germany is a cable made of steel. We are a cable made of flax, more elastic and capable of stretching under pressure. The cable of steel breaks suddenly."

"IZVESTIA" ON MOSCOW TALKS.

SIMILARITY OF OBJECTIVES.

The Moscow Conference of leaders of the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain is an event of very great military and political.

The essence of Hitler's strategy has always been to sow seeds of suspicion and mistrust among his possible adversaries, and beat the peace-loving nations one at a time. Long ago, it became clear that all these plans of Hitler had fallen through. When the future historian begins to sum up the events of our days, he will be bound to note that for Germany this war was a long chain of gross military and political blunders. One of the most evident of these blunders is the hope—which is continuously slipping away from Hitler—to drive a wedge between his three main adversaries, the U. S. S. R., the U. S. A. and Great Britain.

Fortunately for the United Nations, in reality everything turned out just the opposite to what Hitler expected and strove for. From month to month and from year to year rapprochement of the three great allies grew ever more solid and wide. It may be asserted with full certainty that the Moscow meetings and conversations have to a very great degree contributed to the growth of mutual understanding of the two sides, and also of the ability successfully to settle controversial problems arising. In this respect, the importance of the Moscow discussions can hardly be overestimated. Here are several vivid proofs.

As is known, the Polish problem was one of those concerning which complete uniformity of views did not exist between the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain. Goebbels laboured much to exploit this difference of opinion, systematically poisoning the atmosphere with the venomous miasmas of his propaganda. But the Moscow discussions have shown that the representatives of the U. S. S. R. and Great Britain were able to find a common language even in the difficult problems concerning Poland. These problems have not yet been finally solved. But considerable success was achieved in this sphere, and there is reason to believe that in the not distant future the Polish problem will find a satisfactory solution.

In the past, South-Eastern Europe was always a complicated tangle of various, and frequently directly opposite, tendencies and interests. This area was sometimes called the "powder magazine" of Europe. Speculating on the traditions of the past, Hitler expected to find suitable ground here for driving a wedge between Moscow and London. The Moscow discussions have shown that this time too, a great disappointment was in store for him. In the course of the conversations between the leaders of the two States, the problems of Rumania, Bulgaria, Yugoslavia, Hungary and Greece were discussed in detail, and true unanimity was achieved conforming to the aim of the earliest possible defeat of the common enemy; this, far from threatening the small south-eastern nations, on the contrary opens up to them wide prospects of democratic development.

The Moscow discussions also touched on other important questions concerning the post-war order. Exchange of opinions revealed the great similarity of views and intentions of both sides in this respect too. This fact is extremely important, especially now that the Allied armies are already knocking at Germany's gates in the east and west.

In summing up the results of the Moscow discussions, it can be noted with satisfaction that they provide a good indication of the joint concerted work of the Soviet Union, Great Britain and the U. S. A. during the war, and a good omen for similar work in the post-war period. This is of great importance for all peace-loving nations. This gives them ground for belief that leading Allied powers are uniting even more closely to hasten Germany's defeat, and solve successfully the problems of peace and the security of nations after the war.

"CORNER-STONE OF FUTURE PEACE".
ANGLO-SOVIET UNDERSTANDING.

(*From the Pravda*).

The successful and fruitful Moscow talks have dealt another blow at the calculations of Hitlerite adventurers, for whom the co-ordinated actions of the great Allied Powers leave no hope whatsoever of saving themselves from complete defeat—and following this, severe and just punishment.

The co-ordinated actions of the great Allied Powers have already borne fruit in signing armistice agreements with Rumania and Finland. Now the Moscow talks, which covered such a wide range of problems, once again have demonstrated the ever stronger unity of the Allied Powers who joined their effort for the defeat of Germany and for the securing of a lasting peace after this war. The present final stage of the great war of liberation of the democratic countries from German and Fascist plunder and barbarism is simultaneously an important stage in the task of laying the foundations of a lasting and stable peace among the nations after the defeat of the common enemy. It is quite natural that the main responsibility for setting up the foundations for future peace and universal security should rest on the leading Powers of the anti-Hitler coalition. They are right who call the Anglo-Soviet treaty, strengthened by the close collaboration of Britain and the Soviet-Union with the U. S. A., a corner stone not only of the joint struggle against Hitlerite Germany, but also of future stable peace in Europe. The importance of the Moscow meeting lies in the fact that it is putting into practice the Anglo-Soviet treaty. It revealed the ever-growing mutual understanding between the Allied Powers, and their capacity to solve problems which arise by co-ordinating their view points.

GREECE'S FINANCES RUINED BY GERMANS.
DISTRESS AMONG WORKING CLASS.

(*From the Times*).

Mr. Eden's return from Moscow brought him to Cairo just after the Greek Government was re-established in Athens, and it seems a right and proper gesture that the British Foreign Secretary should call on the Greek Government to congratulate it on its home-coming.

No doubt, he and members of the Government took advantage of his presence to discuss the grave problems confronting this newly liberated country, problems which it is now seen are even more urgent than at first they appeared.

Greece's financial and economic situation is parlous in the extreme. Hundreds of thousands are still on the borderline of starvation. There is no work, because neither

industry, commerce nor agriculture can be restarted without far greater outside help than is yet forthcoming.

The severe Greek winter is approaching, and there is no fuel, no clothing and precious little food. In the fashionable central section of Athens, conditions do not appear too bad. The population looks fairly well-fed and reasonably well-clothed. There are still thousands of people roaming the streets, obviously with nothing to do, but there are no obvious signs of distress.

In the suburbs and working class districts, conditions are horrifying, with such shocking poverty and malnutrition that it is amazing that the people manage to keep alive. Unless something is done for them urgently, thousands must soon die.

In the country districts and also in the islands, conditions seem to vary, with enough food for some and none at all for others. As Greece is almost literally without any transport, it is impossible to organize distribution, which could bring some slight relief in some areas.

The Germans bled Greece white, consuming or looting all the country's food, bringing in nothing, destroying wantonly or through neglect all her forms of production, and utterly and deliberately ruining the nation's finances.

The Government has hardly any revenue—there will be no income from taxation for at least six months—and the first urgent necessity is raw materials with which to start up industry. This would not only create revenue but would bring back a measure of confidence to the workless population, whose morale must suffer from continual idleness.

BATTLE OF THE PHILIPPINES

BLOW TO JAP NAVY

(*Manchester Guardian*).

The Japanese navy has received a crippling blow in the battle of the Philippines as it is likely to be called. This implies that the Japanese navy, apart from submarines and such minor vessels as may be stationed overseas in the East Indies and the Chinese waters, will be confined to its home ports for some time to come, during which Allied fleets will be more or less free to range the seas as they will, interrupting enemy communications to an extent that in time must prove fatal both to the maintenance of the Japanese armies abroad and the sustenance of the population at home.

It is unlikely now that the Japanese will be able to muster for the defence of their home waters, when in due course these are menaced, more than eight battleships, nine aircraft-carriers, 25 to 30 cruisers, about 80 destroyers and under 100 submarines. In each of these categories, the United States navy alone can dispose of twice or three times as many ships, to say nothing of the British Eastern Fleet, now a formidable force, and equal by itself to meeting the Japanese navy.

What induced the Japanese naval staff to venture into the narrow waters of the Philippines in such force? It can only be supposed that the claims of Japanese aircraft from army bases in Formosa to have inflicted heavy losses on the United States Third Fleet last week were taken at their face value. It was, therefore, assumed that an excellent opportunity offered of taking the Philippine invading forces at a disadvantage, so recovering the initiative lost in the earlier actions.

BRITISH FLEET ALREADY UNDER WAY FOR FAR EAST.

SPEEDING JAPAN'S DEFEAT.

(*By A. J. McWhinnie*).

Units of the British Fleet are under way for the Far East. This disclosure by Mr. A. V. Alexander, First Lord of the Admiralty, sets the seal on Britain's part in the coming defeat of Japan.

"We hope to place in the Pacific", Mr. Alexander said, "a fleet capable in itself of fighting a general fleet action with the Japanese Navy."

This is the most definite indication yet received from an official quarter of the rôle assigned by Quebec to Britain's Royal Navy, and it should be noted that Mr. Alexander spoke of the Pacific, and not merely of the Indian Ocean or the South China Sea. The Admiralty can never be accused of over-statement; rarely has it expressed itself on future operations; and so this departure from normal practice may be taken as a minimum indication of the events destined to be vital to the Allies' Far Eastern interests.

PROVISION AGAINST SURPRISES.

Some weeks ago, Mr. Alexander announced a record movement of ships and stores to the East. Now he gives some glimpse of the purpose behind these preparations. Taken against the background of what is known about the Japanese fleet, one is able to assess something of the strength which Britain must be massing in that theatre.

The composition of the Japanese fleet is one of the most closely guarded secrets of the world; and for that very reason, the calculations undoubtedly include ample provision against surprises. Of Japan's ten pre-war battleships, United States sources claim that two have been sunk and two damaged. She has probably repaired the damaged ones so that she still has eight of these ships which, although they were laid down between 1913 and 1923, have all been fully modernised. In addition, she is reported to have a number of 40,000 tonners, mounting eight or nine 16-inch guns. Again, one must rely on American sources, which indicate that the number of these may be anything from two to five.

SPEED AND FIRE POWER.

Their main armament suggests that 40,000 tons would be the minimum weight, and it is undoubtedly to meet the unknown threat of these Leviathans, that the Americans have concentrated on their *Iowa* class of 45,000-ton battleships, mounting nine 16-inch guns. They are superior in speed and fire power to the battleships, launched earlier in their "Two-Navy Programme", which correspond closely to Britain's *King George V* class mounting 14-inch guns.

These, of which Britain had four, represent the latest additions to the fleet which have so far been announced officially; but Mr. Alexander's words would seem to imply that when the time comes, the Royal Navy will not lack units comparing favourably in speed and fire power with any "dark horses" which Japan may have in her stable.

It is believed that four battleships of 40,000 tons and upwards have been under construction for some time in British yards, and that two of them are destined to perpetuate names famous in Britain's naval history as the H. M. S. *Lion* and *Temeraire*. One must assume that some of these new giants were in Mr. Alexander's mind as being nearly, if not quite, ready.

The Japanese are also believed to have been planning some 15,000-ton super-heavy cruisers, mounting 12-inch guns. Very little is known of them, except that United States naval sources describe them as an evolution of the German pocket battleship; but obviously, they too are a threat which Britain must be ready to meet.

The weak point of the Japanese fleet will probably prove to be its lack of aircraft-carriers. Naval and merchant tonnage hurriedly converted to aircraft-carriers were good enough in the period of Japan's easy conquests; but she has lost heavily in these, and her ability to commission enough new ones to meet effectively the serious Fleet challenge is extremely doubtful.

BRITAIN'S HARDENED FIGHTERS.

For any decisive sea-battle the Japanese fleet will probably try to choose some island-studded waters, where the adjacent air strips will give her fleet cover which the missing carriers should have provided; but American operations have shown clearly that this is no guarantee of protection. If the islands, playing the rôle of aircraft-carriers, are unsinkable they are also immovable, and their air strips provide first-class fixed targets for naval dive-bombers swooping down suddenly and unexpectedly out of the blue.

Thus, by looking at what the enemy may be capable of producing, it is seen that Mr. Alexander has in mind a truly impressive British fleet which, in modern equipment is or will be as formidable as any battle fleet in the world.

It is a fleet, moreover, manned by men hardened in more than five years of continuous fighting. They are men who have completed their tasks in Europe.

Yet, if Britain's Royal Navy has seen its hardest days of the Second World War, its greatest still await it in the Pacific.

POST-WAR RECONSTRUCTION.
(13) 'THE HOME'

Speakers:—Mr. Wickham Steed (Chairman).
Lady Grigg.
Mrs. Handoo.
Dr. Ruth Young.

(Broadcast in the B. B. C's. Eastern Service on October 16, 1944).

Steed: To-day we take an eminently social focus for our discussion—the Home. The Home is, of course, in one form or another, common to every nation, people, and tribe.

But most people in Britain haven't the faintest idea what an Indian home is like. Now, Lady Grigg, you've lived a long time in India—you can probably give us a clear picture of the Indian home?

Grigg: But that's exactly what I can't. I only lived five years in India, and that on a red carpet most of the time, so I'm not going to set up myself as really knowing anything about the inside of an Indian home.

Steed: Well, let's begin with "The Home"—not necessarily the Indian home.

Grigg: I should like to begin with the housewife, and get something off my chest right away. I don't think English people have any notion of the duties of the housewife. I was horrified the other day to hear a speaker in a broadcast refer to the drudge of the housewife!

Steed: Please remember that I'm a qualified housemaid and cook! Like most people in Britain I've had to do domestic work since the war.

Grigg: Well, d'you consider yourself a drudge?

Steed: If I were a specialist in brain fag, I'd have one prescription for my patients: "Go on your knees and scrub the floor, and you'll rest your brain."

Grigg: I looked up the word "housewife" in the big Oxford Dictionary, and I found this: "a housewife is a woman who manages her household with skill and thrift—a domestic economist." A drudge is defined as a slave, a hack.

Steed: The job demands considerable administrative talent.

Grigg: Of course it does.

Steed: Now, Mrs. Handoo, d'you look upon household work as drudgery?

Handoo: It's not drudgery. And it need not take up all the housewife's time! All the same, it's a great tie, and makes it difficult for a woman to take part in outside interests. Society is deprived of her services if she spends all her time in the home.

Grigg: I don't agree that because a woman looks after her home, society is necessarily deprived of her services. But I think the essential part of a woman's work is to be a home-maker. She's indispensable—you could take away all the other jobs we women do and we could easily be replaced by someone else. But take away the home-maker and the home falls to the ground. Don't you agree Dr. Young?

Young: Up to a point. But I don't think a young mother with a growing family has much time for outside activities. Of course, in England, people who could afford it used to employ servants, but now they can't because there aren't any.

Handoo: I don't approve of servants.

Steed: But, Mrs. Handoo, why do you object to servants?

Handoo: Because I think it's rather unfair to "hire" people to do work you ought to do yourself.

Young: But, look here, Mrs. Handoo, you hire your doctor or your lawyer. Why shouldn't you hire servants? What we want to do, I think, is to raise the status of domestic service, and put it on a professional basis.

Handoo: But a woman can do domestic work herself. She can't doctor herself.

Young: But if she is doing something for which she is capable—more, shall I say, skilled than washing the kitchen floor—why shouldn't she hire someone to wash the kitchen floor?

Handoo: Why shouldn't she wash the kitchen floor as well? I am sure that women with grown up families can do their housework, and then go out and be useful to society.

Young: I don't know so much about washing the floor, but I can speak from personal experience, having been a professional woman and having also brought up a family. When the family was young, I devoted myself to them and afterwards resumed my professional life.

Grigg: But you couldn't have done this unless you'd had a servant or two.

Young: India requires any number of women for her schools and hospitals. How is she to get them if there are no servants?

Handoo: I am not opposed to part-time help. What I object to is one person being entirely at the mercy of another.

Steed: Well, we're getting a little away from our central point—the importance of the home as an element in the life of a nation. I cannot conceive this country without its homes and its villages which people naturally tend to go back to. My family wasn't a very big one—only five—but one's thoughts have always gone back to that as the almost ideal condition. My mother and my father were very intelligent people; but my mother, as the Americans say, "ran the house" with extreme ability, and retained at the same time all her intellectual interests.

Young: In India practically all the women marry. How will there be women available for professional work?

Handoo: I do not agree. If India was developed, as other countries are, with modern conveniences in the house, the housewife would have more time, and hence more of her services could be given to society. And yet some of them find time to do social work.

Grigg: I know that is a difficult problem. And here's another. The woman who will serve on committees. You in India have her just as we do in England. A woman in India once said to me: "Oh, I sit on 35 committees!" My reaction was: "Then you ought to be ashamed of yourself; nobody can sit on 35 committees and do the job properly." The very fact that they influence society through their homes is just as important, surely, as the contribution they may make by sitting on a committee.

Steed: Well, I think the committee life is largely for those women who are not anchored. They find a certain usefulness in public work.

How have modern habits affected home life in India, Mrs. Handoo?

Handoo: To a great extent in the towns, but very little so far in the village.

Steed: Personally I've no conception of how much the home means to an Indian.

Handoo: It's much the strongest force in Indian life. And, though certain elements of family life are changing as the result of modern conditions, the home still remains as strong a force as ever.

Grigg: Would you say that the influence of the home is stronger than in England?

Handoo: I've lived a number of years in England, and I should say the influence of the home is much greater in India than in this country. English women have so many ties and interests outside the home, whereas Indian women nearly all spend their whole lives in their homes, working very hard in them too.

Young: I agree that the Indian woman is hard working, particularly in the village. There they often work far too hard for health and for the proper bringing up of their children. Women may have some leisure at certain times of the year, but during harvest, planting and other busy farm seasons their work is unceasing.

Handoo: In the towns too they are never idle. Take for instance, the Punjab. The women cook their meals and look after their children; then, when they have no other work, they gather together and take out their spinning-wheels or do their embroidery.

Steed: Well, now, may I bring us back to the central point again? I'm still not very clear what the home means either to a Hindu or a Moslem; does it mean a permanent residence in a village or a town?

Handoo: It means a permanent home, but generally not simply as in England for parents and their children, but for the whole family group.

Young: Yes, that is an important difference between the English and the Indian home. In my experience, the permanency of the home is a very marked feature of Indian life. For instance, people in the Services go far away from their homes, yet they're always looking back to them.

Handoo: Yes, that is so. The family ties are very strong.

Grigg: Mother is the central point of an Indian family, isn't she?

Handoo: Yes. Or mother-in-law. Sons and daughters obey their mother in most things. Remember what Manu said, "A mother is to be more revered than a thousand fathers".

Grigg: As you are quoting, I read the other day that a Hindu adores the mother and slights the wife.

Handoo: This is not true, because there is so little education provided in the country; women till recently were deprived of education. Hence they were not good companions to their husbands. But that's all changing—in fact it's the biggest change coming over the Indian home. Husband and wife are much more companions than they used to be.

Grigg: Tell me, Mrs. Handoo, would the mother-in-law still decide the jobs of the children-when they are to leave school, where they are to work, and how they are to work—does she still do all that?

Handoo: Most of it.

Grigg: In consultation with her husband?

Handoo: In consultation, of course.

Steed: And is there a family council in the background?

Handoo: Yes.

Steed: Suppose a daughter wants to marry, has she any say in the matter, or is the marriage made for her?

Handoo: Marriages in India are still arranged by the family.

Steed: For the sons too?

Handoo: Yes.

Grigg: But, that's beginninng to change now, isn't it?

Handoo: Yes, it is changing. The younger members are being given more say in the matter of their marriages.

Steed: Does that mean that the power of the family council is becoming weaker? Is that one of the changes coming in India?

Handoo: I think it is.

Young: They wouldn't force a boy or girl to marry someone they disliked?

Handoo: No—never. But there's not much freedom for them to get to know each other before marriage, but that too is changing now, and I think it's a change in the right direction, but I'm not in favour of their going out together.

Young: Personally I think there is a lot to be said for arranged marriages. It may sound very heretical, but after all, the parents often know better than the young people the type of boy and girl who will fit together.

Grigg: I remember so well discussing this with a young Indian girl. I asked her—"Wouldn't you like to be allowed to choose your own husband?"—and she replied: 'Oh, no, we don't know half as much about it as our parents!' "But", I said, "supposing after you're married, you meet somebody you like a great deal better: what about that?" I shall not forget her answer. "We never should," she said, "We should never have the opportunity."

Young: I think there's more to it than mere lack of opportunity. In the great majority of cases it just wouldn't occur to her that it was possible to think of somebody else after marriage, because a Hindu marriage is for always.

Handoo: Yes, it is. Once the word is given, we believe that you can't take it back, and especially the sacred promise which you give at the time of your marriage.

Steed: But isn't there a good deal of polygamy among the Moslems?

Young: Very little now. There never was very much in India. For one thing, people in the villages are far too poor.

Steed: When I was in Bosnia on one occasion, the Moslem Governor offered to show me over his house. "Have you many wives?" I asked. "Many!" he exclaimed, "One is far too expensive."

But tell me, Mrs. Handoo, in what way are conditions in the home changing in India?

Handoo: Well, to begin with, the joint family system is disintegrating. But whether it is for good or evil it's too early to say.

Young: I hope it might be for good, if only because it will encourage individuality. After all, as most of us are convinced of the virtues of democracy, we ought to practise it in the family circle as well as in the country's government. And the old family system in India did smack a bit of authoritarianism, didn't it—I mean, it didn't give young people a chance to develop their individuality, did it?

Handoo: But it gave them all the benefits of discipline and the experience of their elders.

Grigg: Young people over here have no use for the experience of their elders, and I don't know that I blame them.

Steed: Experience has an awkward way of taking its revenge on the young. Well, clearly, one change in India goes towards the emancipation of women. We've had the same movement here.

Handoo: In India the Congress recognises equal rights for women; there's no sex disqualification whatever.

Young: But in actual fact are boys and girls treated equally in the home? Isn't it still the case as it was with us 30 years ago?

I think another big change in India is the power of women to earn. Middle and upper-class girls are now sometimes earning more than men in similar jobs—doctors, nurses, health visitors, and so on.

Grigg: In England, the changes in home life since the beginning of the century have been simply staggering.

Steed: The development of transport is largely responsible. Fifty or sixty years ago if a man hadn't a horse or a penny-farthing bicycle, he had to walk, and that limited his activities away from his home. And so, families stayed at home and made their own amusements.

Young: Yes, but in Britain the men never did stay at home. Now the women don't either: they have become as independent as the men, and there are signs of this beginning in India too.

Steed: What would you say is the chief change in Britain, Lady Grigg?

Grigg: My feeling is that there has been a tremendous increase in selfishness. We're all too much concerned to-day with ourselves, our own amusements, our independence.

Steed: And what about India, Mrs. Handoo? What would you say have been the most important changes affecting the home in the past 50 years?

Handoo: So far, as I said just now, there has been no very great change in the villages, though it's beginning. But in the towns, amongst the educated, change has been most marked. I have already remarked about the closer companionship between husband and wife. The relaxing of purdah and the increasing number of girls entering professions is one of the most startling. You see, until recently, women had no independent life; many were in purdah, and as many more lived in seclusion. The relaxing of these restraints has revolutionised the position of women.

Grigg: Greatly to their advantage surely, but I hope the change won't go quite as far as it's gone with us.

Steed: I hope it will go in the direction of decreasing infant mortality. That is still quite frightful in India, isn't it?

Young: Quite dreadful—only half the children born reach the age of 22 years, instead of 69 with us. That is largely because women are uneducated, and in the village don't know the rudiments of Hygiene.

Steed: Does this high rate of infant mortality lead to the survival of the fittest, as it is said to do in China?

Young: It would be truer to say, to the survival of the least unfit; for every child that dies, two or three remain weak and feeble.

Grigg: Is it because they have too many children?

Young: Well, it very often is due to too rapid, and too early child-bearing, but fortunately the age of marriage is gradually rising.

Grigg: It is just the other way with us, but that's all to the good, for our population is falling, whereas India's is increasing too fast, isn't it Mrs. Handoo?

Handoo: It is certainly increasing very fast, but one musn't forget that it is still less per square mile than in many western countries.

Steed: Will it be possible for India to maintain her standard of living if the population goes on increasing at this rate? But that raises a very large question, which we touched on in former discussions.

Handoo: But the tendency among the intelligentsia is to have fewer children. You see, they always have the problem of unemployment staring them in the face.

Grigg: And they want, no doubt, to be able to educate their children better.

Handoo: That is quite true.

Steed: I wonder what effect better education will have on women?

Young: Well, remember that in the past boys' education in India has centred on the world outside, whereas girls' education has centred on the home. One change, I expect, will be to make Indian girls want to know more about the world outside their home.

Grigg: I've heard it said that under the old system, when children didn't go to school, there was much more genuine culture in the Indian home than there is now. Certainly, the Indian woman has in the past led a life of complete selflessness, devoting herself to her husband and children.

Young: I doubt whether any country has produced a finer type of its kind, and I sometimes think that in India, the women, with all their lack of modern education, are superior to the men, but that is perhaps because I am a woman.

Handoo: Thank you for the compliment to our sex, Dr. Young. If it's deserved, it's because in the past under the great family system girls have been subjected to more rigorous discipline than boys and young men.

Grigg: To some extent that used to be the case with us, but now the boot's on the other foot. Girls have exactly the same opportunities as boys, and schools do the job which used to be the exclusive privilege of the home.

Young: Some families have undoubtedly lost by this, but I think we shall agree that the school is as necessary for girls as for boys.

Handoo: Doubly necessary in India where woman is still mistress of her home, and often an obstacle to the most needed changes because of her lack of education.

Young: Most true, as I have so often found as a doctor, and nowhere is this more needed than in the village, if the many million women who live there are to rear healthy children.

Handoo: And also not have too many of them; at least, I hope that might be an indirect effect of education.

Steed: I wish we could discuss the effects of education more fully, but our time is nearly up. I also wish we could have enlarged on purdah, and what is likely to result from its disappearance. I have read somewhere that "purdah shut out women's influence from social and national life," and I can readily understand that it did. All the changes in social customs should succeed, as someone put it, in "releasing" the dormant force of women, and turning it into a powerful agent of social reconstruction and nation-building.

I may sum up our discussion then by saying that it looks as if the changes taking place in India are following on much the same lines as did our own in the past century. And I should like to express the hope that the changes in India will lead to a better and freer life for Indians, as they have for us in Britain.

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„	Kottaikkadu	... 7.30 „
13-11-44	Tennatirayanpatti	... 7.00 „
„	Visalur	... 7.30 „
14-11-44	Malaiyur	... 7.00 „
„	Karambakkudi	... 7.30 „
15-11-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.
„	College B Tamil	... 11.00 „
15-11-44	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
„	Rani's High School	... 10.45 „
„	Ramachandrapuram	... 7.00 p.m.
„	Rayavaram	... 7.30 „
16-11-44	Viralimalai	... 7.00 „
„	Poruvai	... 7.30 „
17-11-44	Valaramanikkam.	... 7.00 „
„	Embal	... 7.30 „

LECTURE CCXXIV (*Batch 4*).

18-11-44	Municipal Office	... 6.00 p.m.
19-11-44	Nirpalani	... 7.00 „
„	Avur	... 7.30 „
20-11-44	Puttambur	... 7.00 „
„	Vaittikkovil	... 7.30 „
21-11-44	Narttamalai	... 7.00 „
„	Uppiliakkudi	... 7.30 „
22-11-44	College A English	... 11.00 a.m.
„	College B Tamil	... 11.00 „
22-11-44	C. S. M. High School	... 10.00 a.m.
„	Rani's High School	... 10.45 „
„	Vadavalam	... 7.00 p.m.
„	Sammattividuthi	... 7.30 „
23-11-44	Nallur	... 7.00 „
„	Mattur	... 7.30 „
24-11-44	Nachchandupatti	... 7.00 „
„	Virachchilai	... 7.30 „

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